

# The Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program



## What is the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program?

The Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program (BTS Program) provides arts-integrated instruction to elementary students, **effectively increasing student performance in every subject—from language arts and social studies to math and science.** The program is currently in 220 Utah elementary schools in 29 districts (including 16 charter schools) and is serving approximately 114,000 students.

## Infrastructure of the BTS Program

The BTS Program puts specialists trained in one of four art disciplines (visual art, dance, music and theater) in elementary schools to work alongside classroom teachers to develop lesson plans for the core curricula that incorporate art. The Utah State Office of Education (USOE) administers the program statewide, and collaborates with deans and university staff from Utah State University, University of Utah, Brigham Young University, Southern Utah University, Weber State University and Westminster College to provide professional development for the arts specialists and classroom teachers. These higher education institutions also work with the USOE to manage the successful implementation of the BTS Program in their respective areas of the state.

## The Future of the BTS Program

Based on feedback from the Utah Legislature, the BTS Program has designed a plan for implementation that will expand the program's reach while dramatically reducing the overall cost per student. The BTS Program has grown significantly in the past year, with about 90 new schools and 44,000 more students participating in the program. In order to continue this growth, the BTS Program is requesting **\$7 million in ongoing funding** from the state education budget this year. By collaborating with numerous university partnerships, endowed chairs, and professional development partners; increasing the number of schools served by each specialist; and providing classroom teachers the opportunity to receive an arts endorsement; the BTS Program plans to expand availability to **all Utah elementary schools.**

## UEPC Findings

Researchers at the Utah Education Policy Center (UEPC) have already found the BTS Program has improved the educational experience in many ways, including:

- Higher student achievement on the CRTs
- Increased student engagement
- Positive changes in students' behavior
- Increased participation in class activities
- Willingness to try new things
- Improved student attendance
- Increases in student confidence and social-emotional development

Visit [artworksforkids.org](http://artworksforkids.org) for more information.



## STATEWIDE SNAPSHOT

Nearly **220** BTS Program schools

**29** School districts

**16** Charter schools

**99** Title I schools

★ **7** University Partners

Approx. **114,000** students served

**50,849** Brigham Young University

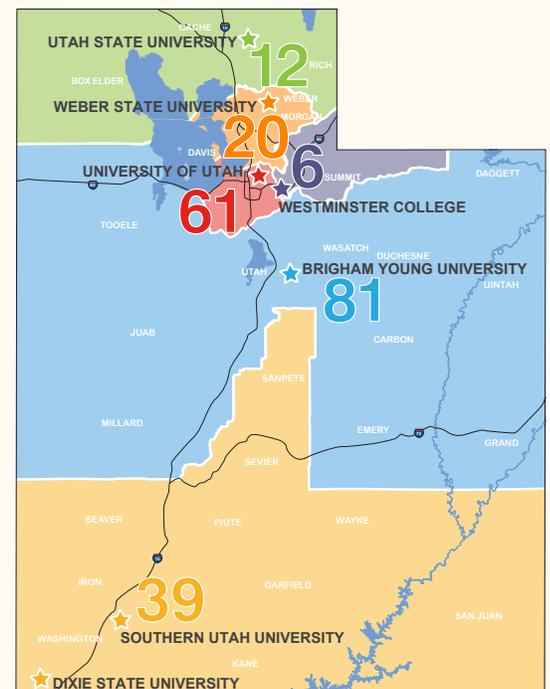
**13,563** Southern Utah University

**31,993** University of Utah

**5,514** Utah State University

**9,801** Weber State University

**2,596** Westminster College

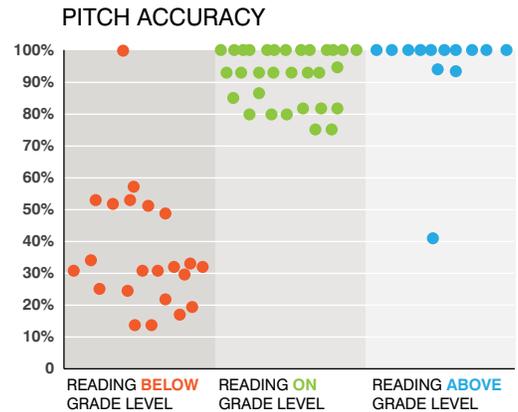


## CASE STUDIES

### Santa Clara Elementary WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



A BTS Program arts specialist at Santa Clara Elementary conducted an in-depth research study about the relationship between good intonation and reading skills in students. The specialist tested several 1st grade classes and found that there was a 96 percent correlation between a student's ability to match pitch and that student's reading level. Those students who were struggling with reading were given extra music lessons to increase their vocal flexibility and pitch accuracy, and most of those students went on to improve their reading level dramatically.



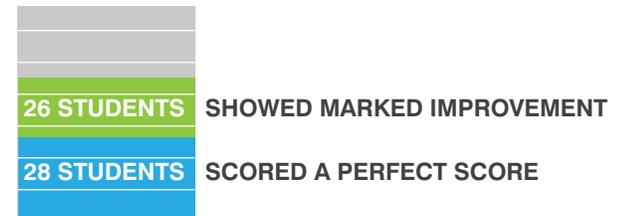
### Davis Elementary UNITAH SCHOOL DISTRICT



Creating illustrations for what they were reading helped third graders at Davis Elementary learn how to compare and contrast. The BTS Program arts specialist first read a descriptive paragraph about dogs with the students, then the students made illustrations of the different types of dog described, and used a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the different breeds. Compared to pretest results of

69 students, 28 of those achieved a perfect score on the test after the arts lesson, and another 26 students showed marked improvement in their scores.

#### AFTER THE VISUAL ART LESSON



### East Elementary IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



A first grade teacher at East Elementary worked with the school's BTS Program arts specialist to create an integrated lesson plan that would target sentence structure, an area most first graders struggled with at the Title One school. Using an observational drawing lesson that taught sentence structure, the teachers reviewed core concepts with students before standardized testing. With the help of arts-integration,

test results showed this class improved 17.4 percent on the sentence structure portion of the test. Additionally, children in the class with the arts-integrated lesson plan scored 40 percent higher on the test than the average of children in other first grade classes.

#### SCORE PERCENTAGE FOR STUDENTS ON STANDARDIZED TESTS WITH THE ARTS-INTEGRATED LESSON PLAN

